

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK

Down on the Farm

Spring, 2011

www.cromwellvalleypark.org
info@cromwellvalleypark.org

- Educational Programs •Seasonal Programs
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Community Service Projects
- Bird Watching •Habitat Restoration
- Hiking Trails •Summer Day Camp



With a click of your mouse you can now visit
"NATURE ON THE WEB"

DID YOU KNOW...Cromwell Valley Park has "Naturalist News" on its website! Posted by our park naturalists, the columns highlight current events in nature and help us notice, learn about and enjoy what's happening outside at the Park. Just click on the "Naturalist News" link on our homepage.



Visit us early and often!
www.cromwellvalleypark.org

Below you will find our feature from March 2010



If you're a Wood Frog tadpole you've got to be quick. Wood Frogs typically deposit their eggs in temporary vernal pools that dry up by summer. We "rescued" a batch of the eggs from a puddle in the Blue Trail in mid-March. By late April, they had sprouted their back legs, and, by mid-May, they lost their tails and started breathing air. The little frogs are no bigger than your thumbnail but represent an amazing transformation that never ceases to enchant and amaze. Besides their legs, just about every other physiological system changes to accommodate their new life on land. For example, the tadpole's mouth changes from a circular mouth that scrapes algae to a wide mouth that can catch and devour insects. During this transformation, the critters don't eat, but use the fat stored in their shrinking tails as food. Imagine having to go through so many radical changes in such a short time!

Saturday Morning Bird Walks

Join a park volunteer from 8 AM – 10 AM
for bird walks on

April 2nd & 16th, & 30th,

May 14th & 28th, and June 11th.

NEW THIS SPRING - Join us at 7:45 AM on
the dates listed above for a short workshop
on using binoculars, locating birds, birding by ear, etc.

Also, join us for "**FINDING ORIOLES AT CVP**"
See page 3 for details.

For more information call 410.887.2503

We will meet at the Willow Grove Farm
Gravel Parking Lot



Schedule of Events

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL
AND ENJOY MONEY SAVING BENEFITS ON
DESIGNATED PROGRAMS**
See page 9 for application form

Saturday, March 5 at 10:30 AM to 12 PM

Maple Sugarin' - Maple trees have been "tapped" for hundreds of years to produce syrup and sugar for our tables. Join us to "tap" a tree and learn when and how the sap can be boiled into syrup for our pancakes and waffles. Ages 5+. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Wednesdays, Starting March 9 at 4 PM to 5:30 PM
Calling all 1st thru 3rd graders!

JOIN THE AFTER SCHOOL F.O.X. CLUB!

We will meet on Wednesday March 9 & 23, April 6 & 20, May 11 & 25 from 4 to 5:30 PM at the Willow Grove Farm. We'll Focus On Xploring a different nature or farm theme each week with hands-on learning, outdoor games and a hike. Parents are welcome to stay and share in the fun, but it's not required unless your child needs a little extra help. Children should dress for the weather, including sturdy shoes and rain gear, if needed. \$15 members/\$20 non-members for 6 sessions. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Friday, March 11 at 3:30 PM to 5 PM

Hibernation, Migration, Catnap, or Active? - Learn about the winter strategies of different native animals. Program will include live animals, mounted specimens, and a walk to see who's active and who's sleeping. All ages. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Registration Information

Reservations are required for all programs, unless otherwise specified. Payment must be made within 5 business days of your reservation, or the reservation will be yielded to the waiting list. All payments are donations and non-refundable unless CVP cancels the program. To make your reservations, please call the Park Office: 410.887.2503, TDD: 410.877.5319, or Email us at info@cromwellvalleypark.org. All programs & events are rain or shine unless a rain date is specified. Program leaders will call registered participants ONLY in the event of cancellation at least 1 hour before program start. **Make checks payable to: Cromwell Valley Park Council (CVPC). Mailing Address: Cromwell Valley Park, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, MD 21234.** These programs are designed for individuals & families. They are not designed to provide childcare. Therefore, parents should discuss attendance expectations with their children. Park staff cannot detain youth wishing to leave at any time. If you would like to arrange a program for a group or an organization, please contact the Park Office between 9 AM & 2 PM. Children under 13 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Should you require special accommodations (i.e., language interpreter, large print, etc.) please give as much notice as possible by calling the Park Office, or the Therapeutic Office at 410.887.5370.

Schedule of Events Continued

Saturdays, Starting March 12 at 1 PM to 1:30 PM

Creature Feature - Join us on March 12, April 2, April 9, April 16, April 30, May 28, June 11 & June 18 for an up-close look at one of our native animals at feeding time. Learn about the animals adaptations, diet, life cycle and more! All ages. Reservations NOT required. FREE! Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 PM to 9 PM

Wet & Wild - The froggies are a callin'! - Come for a night hike to learn the who, what, when, where and why of frog calls & their spring reproduction. Ages 6+. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Wednesdays, Starting March 16 at 4 PM to 5:30 PM

Calling all 4th thru 6th graders!

JOIN THE AFTER SCHOOL HAWK CLUB!

We will meet on Wednesday March 16 & 30, April 13 & 27, May 4 & 18 from 4 to 5:30 PM at the Willow Grove Farm. Give your child the opportunity to expand their imagination and knowledge as they explore the wonders of nature while learning what we can do to help protect our Earth. Make sure your child dresses for the weather and is wearing shoes to hike in. This is a drop off program - parents need not attend. Reservations required. \$15 members/\$20 non-members for 6 sessions. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Saturday, March 19 at 1 PM to 3 PM

Wilderness Navigation, Orienteering 101 - Try out our new Orienteering Trail after learning the basics of map and compass use. Program lead by John Landers from the Quantico Orienteering Club. Ages 10+. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Thursdays, Starting March 24 at 2 PM to 3:30 PM

Homeschool Garden Club - How does your garden grow? You'll learn from the ground up in this hands-on class. Plan your square foot garden; plant the seeds and grow a luscious variety of spring vegetables while learning about sustainable agriculture. Some cooking, too. We'll meet on Thursday March 24 & 31, April 21, May 5 & 19, and June 2. Homeschoolers ages 10 -18. Registration required.



\$25 members/ \$30 non-members for 6 sessions. Willow Grove Nature Education Center

Sunday, March 27 at 3 PM to 4:30 PM

Wilderness Survival - Come learn some wilderness survival skills like shelter and fire building, and enjoy a tasty flame-cooked reward afterwards. Ages 6+. Registration required. \$3 members/ \$5 non-members. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



**Wednesday March 30 at 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM
& Thursday, March 31 at 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

School Group Volunteer Training - Consider becoming a volunteer to assist with school field trip programs in the Park. No experience necessary. Reservations required. FREE! See page 7 for details. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Saturday, April 2 at 7 AM to 4 PM

5 K Run and Annual Daffodil Festival - Starting at 7 AM, TALMAR Gardens, in conjunction with the Baltimore Road Runners Club, will host its annual **5K Run** here at CVP. The race will be primarily a trail run. Official time results will be calculated. At 10 AM, the **Daffodil Festival** will begin at the TALMAR site located in CVP's Eck Farm area. Enjoy live music, food, face painting, nature crafts & more. \$5 per car donation. Visit us on Twitter "talmargardens", Facebook, web www.talmar.org, or blog at www.talmarwordpress.com for updated information. TALMAR Horticultural Center at Eck Farm



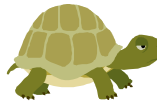
Wednesdays, Starting April 6 at 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Nature, Mom & Me! - We will meet on Wednesday April 6, 13, 27 & May 11, 18, 25. In each class, you and your pre-schooler will investigate a different nature topic through hands-on activities, stories, crafts and hikes. Be sure to dress for the weather, including sturdy shoes. Ages 3-6. Reservations required. \$15 members/\$20 non-members for 6 sessions. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Sunday, April 10 at 1 PM to 2:30 PM

Year of the Turtle - Conservation groups have named 2011 the Year of the Turtle...come discover why! Did you know the US is a turtle biodiversity hotspot? Learn all about turtles, meet some up close, visit some turtle habitats in the Park and make a craft to take home. All ages. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Saturday, April 16 at 1:30 PM to 3 PM

Flowers, Frogs and Fiddleheads - Discover the new spring arrivals on this naturalist-lead hike. Dress for the weather and muddy trails. Ages 5+. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Saturdays, Starting April 16 at 9:30 AM to 12 PM

Children's Garden Club Begins! - Meets twice monthly for ages 5 to 13. For more details see page 4. Reservations required. \$25 members/\$35 non-members. Willow Grove Children's Garden



Saturday, April 16 at 10 AM to 1 PM

Adopt-a-Tree Planting

Come and plant a tree or two!
See page 7 for details. All ages.
Reservations required. FREE!



Schedule of Events Continued



Saturday, April 23 at 10 AM to 12 PM
Easter Egg Hunt
See page 4 for more details.
Sherwood Farm



Friday, April 29 at 5 PM to Saturday, April 30 at 10 AM

Spring Family Campout – Introduce your family to the camping experience close to home. Will include a night hike and evening campfire. Families should provide their own camping gear BUT, if you need a tent, we may have one for your use. Please BYO supper. Breakfast will be provided. Reservations required. **RAINDATE** April 30 to May 1. \$15 per family members/\$20 non-members. *Willow Grove Family Camping Area*



Saturday, April 30 at 10 AM to 11:30 AM

Bird Nest Program – Read the story *Birdsongs* by Betsy Franco and Steve Jenkins and go on a hike to look for nests in trees around the WGNEC. After the hike, create a paper mache' bird nest with a mother bird and her eggs. Ages 5 - 7. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. Reservations required. *Willow Grove Nature Education Center*



Saturday, May 7 at 8 AM to 10 AM

Finding Orioles at CVP – Did you know that Cromwell Valley Park is one of the best places to see Baltimore Orioles? We will listen to their calls and then take a walk to look for them. If you have binoculars please bring them, we have a few to loan. Ages 10+. Reservations NOT required. FREE! *Willow Grove Gravel Parking Lot*



Saturday, May 7 at 9 AM to 3 PM
and Sunday, May 8 at 11 AM to 3 PM

Annual Plant Sale! – This Mother's Day weekend both the CSA and TALMAR Gardens will host their annual plant sale. A diverse selection of fun and exciting organic heirloom vegetable seedlings, a rainbow of annual flowers and perennial plants and fascinating herb varieties, such as chocolate basil, will be for sale. Stop by the sale for all your spring needs and support our local organic growers! *Sherwood Farm Barn*



Saturday, May 7 at 10 AM to 12 PM

Trail Day – Groups & individuals are invited to work with the CVP Trail Club to maintain & improve trails in the Park. Help clear trails & prevent erosion to keep our trails in tip top condition. Ages 13+. Reservations NOT required. *Sherwood Farm*



Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 PM to 9 PM

Old Fashioned Weenie Roast & Night Hike – Gather around the campfire to roast hot dogs & marshmallows. Followed by a night hike under the waxing gibbous moon. Food & drink provided. All ages. Reservations required. \$3 members/\$5 non-members. *Willow Grove Hawk Watch Site*



Saturday, May 21 at 10 AM to 5 PM
and Sunday, May 22 at 12 PM to 5 PM

Arts in the Park – The Cromwell Valley Park Council is pleased to sponsor this show and sale featuring artwork by local and regional artisans working in a variety of media. See page 5 for more details. Reservations NOT required. All ages. \$5 per car parking donation. *Sherwood Farm*



Saturday, May 21 at 1:30 PM to 3 PM

Riotous Rhubarb – It's a fruit. It's a vegetable. It's yummy! Taste and see that rhubarb, our first crop of spring, is very, very good. We'll be harvesting rhubarb in the garden and preparing several rhubarb treats. Ages 6+. Reservations required. \$3 members/\$5 non-members. *Willow Grove Nature Ed. Center*



Saturday, May 28 at 10 AM to 4 PM

Spring Nature Quest – Enjoy a self-guided scavenger hunt that will take you to spring awakenings in and around the Willow Grove Nature Education Center. Pick up your guide book at the Nature Center, and don't forget to return to claim your prize when you're finished. All ages. Reservations NOT required. FREE! *Willow Grove Nature Education Center*



Saturday, May 28 at 10 AM to 11:30 AM

Dora the Explorer Day – Go on a guided adventure, learning through games, clues, and hands-on activities--just like Dora. We will discover the secrets of butterflies, and even learn some Spanish words. Ages 3 - 6. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. *Willow Grove Nature Education Center*



Sunday, June 5 at 1 PM to 2:30 PM

Wild Things Scavenger Hunt – The world is full of wild things. Join us in the search for clues to where animals roam, sleep, and hide. We may even find the wild things treasure. Ages 5+. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. *Willow Grove Nature Education Center*



Sunday, June 12 at 1 PM to 3:30 PM

Barnyard Tales & Safety Program
See page 5 for more details.
Willow Grove Farm



Saturday, June 18 at 10:30 AM to 12 PM

Bees from A to Z – About 1/3 of the food we eat comes directly from pollination honey bees perform. Explore the world of Apis Mellifera, and learn why they are so important. See the inside of an active hive and sample the bees' sweet creation. Ages 5+. Reservations required. \$2 members/\$4 non-members. *Sherwood House*



CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

In case of questionable weather – call the Park office after 9 AM ON EVENT DAY for details.
RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED - NO ADULTS ALLOWED IN THE EGG HUNT AREAS

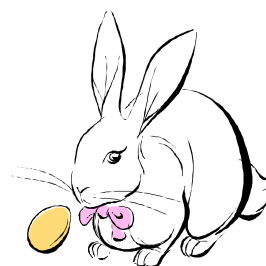


JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CVP COUNCIL SPONSORED EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 23

10 AM - 12 PM

Sherwood Farm



Make an Easter Bonnet/Hat

Egg Hunt Times

Visit with the Easter Bunny

Ages 3 - 4 10:30 AM

4-H Rabbit Club Presentation

Ages 5 - 6 10:45 AM

Jelly Bean and M&M's Counting Contest

Ages 7 - 8 11:00 AM

Family Games & Natural Egg Dying

Ages 9 - 10 11:15 AM

CHILDREN'S GARDEN CLUB of Cromwell Valley Park For Ages 5 to 13

Play in the dirt, sip mint tea in the sunflower house, grow & pop your own popcorn, search for tadpoles and toads in the pond, take bouquets home for Mom and make zucchini muffins. Grow vegetables, flowers, & herbs while exploring the natural world of our garden. Join us to play, learn, craft, and eat tasty foods you grow yourself.



**We meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturday's
of each month
in the Children's Garden located
at the Willow Grove Farm
April 16th thru October 15th.**

**Choose one of two sessions (20 children max. per session):
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM or 10:45 AM - 12 PM
\$25 CVPC members/\$35 non-members**



For more information, or to reserve your space for this unique & exciting program, please call the Park Office at 410.887.2503, or E-mail us at info@cromwellvalleypark.org
Please download a registration form from our website at www.cromwellvalleypark.org and mail in with your payment.

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL



Saturday May 21, 2011 10am to 5pm
Sunday May 22, 2011 12pm to 5pm

Pottery • Metalwork • Small Press Books • Jewelry Design • Fiber Design

FINE ART, FINE CRAFTS, LITERARY & MUSIC

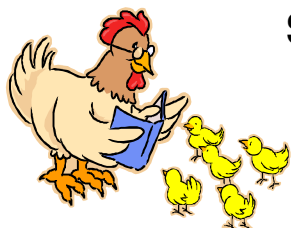
Woodworking • Mixed Media • Photography • Drawing • Painting • Glasswork

Sherwood House at Cromwell Valley Park
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, Maryland

\$5 Parking Donation

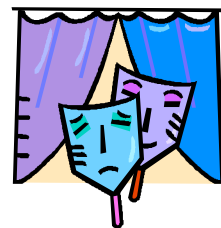
For more information contact towsonartscollective@gmail.com or www.towsonartscollective.org

ART MUSIC POETRY FOOD WINE CLASSIC CARS



SUNDAY, JUNE 12th at 1 PM to 3:30 PM

Come Join Us At
The Willow Grove Farm for
“BARNYARD TALES”
& Safety Program



The Cromwell Valley Park Council presents the 2011 season of THE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE CHILDREN'S THEATRE, and once again, it will be held at the Willow Grove Farm. **Beginning at 2 PM**, after the audience takes the place of the missing rooster and wakes up the farmers, audience members help the farm hands with chores such as milking the cows and feeding the chickens. As they work, the farmers share their favorite stories - “Chicken Little”, “The Little Red Hen”, and “The Four Friends”. Among the many lively songs included in this *Thirst -n- Howl Musical Productions* interactive musical adaptation are “Cockadoodle Doo”, “The Sky is Falling”, “Dough Rolling”, “Splish Splash”, and “Stranger Danger”.

Beginning at 1 PM, as part of the **Safety Program**, the CVPC, in cooperation with the Baltimore County Police Department, will provide each child with a free ID card. If requested by a parent, a BCPD Officer will assist in adding the child's fingerprints to the card. Gates open at 1 PM. Reservations are NOT required. A \$5 dollar donation per car is requested. Please call the Park Office at 410.887.2503 for further information. *Willow Grove Farm*

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL



Volunteer in 2011 Children's Garden Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for groups, individuals, families, scout troops and teens!

There's room for everyone: students who need community service hours, seniors who want to spend some time outdoors, scouts, corporations, church and community groups, families and individuals who want to make a difference in their community while volunteering in their "backyard". **You can be a part of our 2011 Garden Crew and support our beautiful & bountiful garden that is used to raise produce for our local food bank and to teach school groups and the general public about gardening in concert with nature.**

Drop in Gardening

Join us for one or several mornings of maintaining the Children's Garden. **Perfect for groups and individuals who want to help just one or a few times.** Garden gloves and tools will be provided, but if you have your own favorites bring them. Sturdy shoes, water, sun screen and a hat suggested. Service hours available.

9 AM - 12 PM Wednesday, April 20

9 AM - 12 PM Saturdays:

March 26, April 9, April 30, May 21, June 18

Adopt-a-Garden

Looking for a continuing outdoor, hands-on, worthwhile, flexible volunteer experience? You or your group can adopt one of our small plots within the Children's Garden. Your job would be to visit your area 2-4 times each month, from April through October, and provide routine maintenance: weeding, watering, mulching. **You can come when the Park is open - sunrise to sunset.** Last year we had a Daisy troop adopt the small butterfly garden, and a family who came every week to care for the food bank beds. Brief orientation and training provided.

Custom Community Service

You tell us when you can come, and we'll tell you what you can do to help each day when you arrive. This option works well for people who can commit to a more-or-less regularly scheduled volunteer time. It's great for high school students who want to earn service learning hours needed for graduation. For example, we've had high school students work every Wednesday in the summer, or every Tuesday afternoon for 2 hours. Brief orientation and training provided.

Call Justine Schaeffer at 410.887.3014

to reserve your place in the sun and get your hands dirty this year for a good cause.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS 2010

Our Children's Garden gets better every year because of our hard-working and reliable volunteers who contributed over 800 hours in 2010. They helped create and maintain a beautiful and bountiful garden that enabled us to teach school groups, families, adults and children about gardening in concert with nature. From Swiss chard to buckeye butterflies, sunflowers to native bees, our garden was amazing this year!



- ◆ We are especially grateful to Bob Eder and Allen Lembach who mowed the garden week after week and turned compost. Without them, not much else could have been accomplished this summer.
- ◆ Trevor Suznick, our resident Master Gardener, was so helpful week after week with the Children's Garden Club, pest identification, water conservation, what to grow and how to grow it.
- ◆ We rely on the teens from JOINS each month for the heavy lifting and big maintenance jobs. Thank you!
- ◆ We had a number of groups who chose us for their community service this year: ServFest from area churches; Boys' Latin; GMA Academy; several groups from Towson University: Circle K, Residence Government and the Big Event.
- ◆ Thanks, Eagle Scout Marlin Ballard III, for the new benches. The birders and butterflies will love it next year.
- ◆ Thanks, Rick and Sharon Childs for the attractive stonework around the pond and the path in the native shrub area.
- ◆ Thanks, Sue Lake and crew for keeping the herb garden looking and smelling nice.
- ◆ Thanks, Daisy Troop 456 for adopting the small butterfly garden and keeping it colorful all season long.
- ◆ The hungry of Baltimore County thank Amy, Wyeth, Cole and Jaden Force for adopting all four of the food bank beds and caring for them every week.
- ◆ Thanks, Debbie and Olivia Sterling for help preparing beds in the spring.
- ◆ A crew of willing teens helped with weeding and watering all summer and fall, even in the terrible heat: Adam, Brian, Alex, Maggie, Stephanie, Meredith, Theodore, Nicole, Elena.
- ◆ Thanks, Chris and James for helping to put the garden to bed in the fall.

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

FRIENDS OF SHERWOOD HOUSE



We invite you to browse and check out books from the shelves of the *Arthur W. Sherwood Reading Room*. Located in the Sherwood House, the library offers books on natural history, gardening, plants, insects, biology and ecology for both children and adults. Call the Park Office at 410.887.2503 for hours.

Do you have any suggestions to enhance the Sherwood House? We invite you to our next meeting to share those ideas. Call the Park Office for more details about our next activity.

CVP TRAIL CLUB



Do you enjoy hiking the trails at CVP? If so, consider being a member of our trail club and join us for our trail work day scheduled for May 7 from 10 AM until 12 PM. We will meet at the Sherwood House parking lot.

Groups & individuals are invited to work with the CVP Trail Club to maintain and improve trails in the Park. Help clear trails & prevent erosion to keep our trails in tip top condition. For more information, contact the Park Office Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 2 PM at 410.887.2503.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you enjoy spending time in a natural setting? Do you like interacting with children? Are you concerned that many children are not developing a sense of place and a love of nature? Please consider becoming a volunteer to assist with school field trip programs in the Park.

No experience necessary; we provide training and mentoring with naturalists and seasoned volunteers.



SCHOOL GROUP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Wednesday, March 30 & Thursday, March 31

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Lunch is provided!

Willow Grove Nature Education Center



Programs run from 9:30 - 11:30 AM and 12:45 - 2:45 PM. We could use your help, whether it's once a week or once a month, morning or afternoon. Create special memories for yourself and for the children. It's both fun and rewarding!

To learn more, please contact Laurel Harrison at 410.887.3014, or by E-mail at laurel@cromwellvalleypark.org



THE GREEN TEAM Adopt-a-Tree & The Giving Tree



ADOPT-A-TREE PLANTING

The Cromwell Valley Park Council
and The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
Would like to invite you and your family
to an

Adopt-a-Tree Planting at
Cromwell Valley Park

On

Saturday, April 16, 2011

From 10AM to 1 PM

Come and plant a tree or two, decorate the tree shelter and receive an adoption certificate for your tree.

Beverages will be provided. You and your family might stroll along our paths and check out the flora and fauna.

We will meet at Sherwood House parking lot.

Please call for reservations by April 16, 2011 to 410-887-2503.

We look forward to seeing you.



GIVING TREE STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Green Team's Giving Tree fund raising project continues to need donations to purchase everything from microscopes to magnifying bug boxes to muffin pans, from cookware to cutting boards to can openers to colanders to cutlery to crayons to constellation guides, from soil testing kits to shovels to seeds to scissors from thermometers to trowels to terrariums to toasters to tree loppers in order to support and enhance our educational program with visiting schoolchildren to the Willow Grove Farm area of Cromwell Valley Park.

**You can find the Giving Tree
in the lobby of the Sherwood House
during the Park's Office hours of
9 AM to 2 PM Monday through Friday.**

**For further information about joining the
Cromwell Valley Park Green Team,
please contact the Park Office
by phone - 410.887.2503,
or by E-mail at info@cromwellvalleypark.org**

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

Robert P. Zapf, Sr. - in memoriam -

"Ranger Rob" to us, of course...

Rob Zapf served Cromwell Valley Park for many years. In fact, back in the '90's he was involved in the effort to save the land from development and preserve it as a place for people of the community to enjoy nature. That work was only the beginning.

Rob was the Park's most devoted volunteer among the many who have helped with the popular field trip programs. He was here everyday: in the fall helping the young ones make apple cider, and in the spring assisting them in planting carrots or potatoes with their own little hands. The kids and their parents always loved Ranger Rob. The Park staff did, too, because he was always there to help.

Rob was an ardent supporter of the Park, whether new visitors to the Park needed to be greeted or some cause for the Park demanded a letter to the newspaper. Rob was here to do it. Many of us who now volunteer at the Park, recall that our first personal connection to the Park was through Rob, who had greeted us at the Park kiosk and made us feel like we should keep coming back to this wonderful place.

In the spring of 2009, when Rob's family realized that he was too sick to spend the hours he'd like to at the Park, they donated a bench to the Park in his name. The dedication of the bench was very special because Ranger Rob was able to join us for the occasion.

Back on November 19th, Rob passed from our midst. He surrendered to an illness that held him down for more than two years. Despite the illness, he occasionally visited the Park as he was able. He'd sit on his bench and look out over the Children's Garden where he had spent many hours.

Rob Zapf's bench has a permanent place in the Children's Garden at Willow Grove. Come out and "set a spell" and take in what Ranger Rob left behind for us to enjoy.

Rob and daughter
Marnien at the
Bench dedication.



WGNEC

Willow Grove Nature Education Center

Join the Saturday fun.

The Nature Center is open from 10-4 on Saturdays.
Check the Calendar for program dates.

Spring General Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Council general meeting, the second Monday in March (3/14/11) at 7 PM at Sherwood House. Elections will be held for several Board positions.

From the Council President

The fall season at the Park brought new faces and a few challenges. Laurel Harrison, whom you met through our last newsletter, brought her energy and know-how to the school field trip programs at the Park. Anne Wedgeworth, our Children's Garden Club Coordinator, and Justine Schaeffer, our Activity Coordinator, and energetic volunteers helped kids from our extended community raise a bountiful harvest in the Children's Garden and hosted group visits even into November! The Park staff showed infinite resourcefulness in managing the demand for these popular programs despite the water supply problems that plagued Willow Grove throughout the season.

The community came out in force for our biggest annual event, the Fall Harvest Festival. We hope you didn't miss that one.

Next up in the spring is the **Easter Egg Hunt**. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 23rd**.

GET INVOLVED!

The Council has a big job at the Park, not only as a resource to the Park Staff and the County in helping to establish priorities and providing funding for programs, but also in the hands-on work of planning and staffing events and providing volunteer help for the programs themselves.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our ability to serve our community through programs and events, and that means finding better ways to reach out and attract others to help in these efforts.

If you are looking for fulfilling volunteer opportunities, consider coming out to the Park. Call the Park Office at 410.887.2503 Monday through Friday between 9 AM & 2PM.

Variety abounds!

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

Cromwell Valley Park Membership and Volunteer Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

New Membership ☐ Renewed Membership ☐
CVPC membership information is used only for purposes authorized by the Council
and is not shared with outside organizations or individuals.

MEMBERSHIP AT THE PARK

Please make check payable to CVPC and return to :
CVPC Membership Committee
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Please select your membership category:

- | | | | |
|---|------|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Organization | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/ Family | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen, Individual 65+ | \$ 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen, Couple 65+ | \$12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Time Student | \$ 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$500 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | \$1000 |

Membership _____

Additional Tax-deductible contribution _____

TOTAL _____

***Your dues apply to the
2011-2012 membership year,
April 1 thru March 31.***

VOLUNTEERING AND THE PARK

Cromwell Valley Park is a unique and wonderful place to spend time, which is why there are currently about 100 program participants each day. The Park relies on volunteers to be able to offer programs that appeal to all ages and interests. Volunteers participate in programs of interest to them and suit their individual schedules. From a 5 year old boy after participating in the children's fall education program making apple cider " *this is the most awesome thing I've ever done in my life!*".

Please indicate your interest and join us in a special and rewarding experience.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Education Programs - assistants | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Festivals - assistants |

Your thoughts, please: What programs or activities would you like to see?

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL



What is Cromwell Valley Park Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)?

We are a small farming community located right here at Cromwell Valley Park. Our mission is to serve & educate a diverse community through small-scale community supported agriculture. Through the operation of our farm and related educational activities, we demonstrate and promote organic food production while providing fresh, local produce to our members.

This year we are growing produce for sale by shares and are offering a variety of farming related programs to the public. Become a member and receive weekly shares of organic produce. For more information about the CVCSA, their share prices and availability, please call **410.825.2020** and leave a message, or visit **www.talmar.org**.

HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM

Quietly and slowly, parts of CVP are being transformed with the help of enthusiastic volunteers. The Habitat Restoration Team has been working for several years to remove the unwanted invasive nuisance plants, and to replant some areas with native plants suitable for this particular place. We want the wild areas of the Park to be as healthy and friendly to wildlife as possible after three centuries of industrial and agricultural activity and more recent suburbanization.



We have been greatly helped by groups from local schools and businesses; we always welcome groups who want to help. But the consistent work force is one that meets at the Sherwood House each month on the second Saturday at 9 AM and we work until 12 PM. We only cancel if there is too much rain and then the rain date is always the next day (Sunday).

Please join us. We provide tools, but you should wear appropriate clothing with long sleeves for working in the woods. There remains a lot to do. You will end the morning with the satisfaction of knowing you made a positive contribution to conserving the natural environment - and we guarantee a good workout!

For more details call 410.887.2503.

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS!

Baltimore County Code Title 6 requires that, when off the owner's property,

ALL DOGS MUST BE WALKED ON A LEASH.

This law applies to **ALL** dog owners using **ALL** areas of the Park.

Be considerate of other Park users.

Leash your pets and clean up after them!



TALMAR

2011 WEEKLY CUT FLOWER SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM at Cromwell Valley Park

Why not support local agriculture by purchasing fresh cut flowers directly from a local grower? Entering our 10th season, we offer **ORGANICALLY GROWN FLOWER SUBSCRIPTIONS!**

This is how our flower subscription program works. Starting **May 30th**, we will cut a variety of large bunches of field grown specialty cut flowers for you. The subscriber will visit our farm, or a local Farmers Market on the designated days to pick up their fresh flowers. Your bunches of flowers will consist of annuals, perennials and/or biennials: Zinnia, Sweet William, Campanula, Asters, Glads, Lilies and much more. Some bunches will be made of one or two types of flowers, others will consist of many different types of flowers. We will offer one color or mixed colors in the same bunch. The type of flowers will vary from one week to the next.

We guarantee satisfaction & Gift Certificates are available! Call **410.825.2020** and leave message if you have any questions, or visit our web site at **www.talmar.org**. Or blog www.talmar.wordpress.com. You may download an application on site. Thank you for supporting local agriculture and our *non-profit organization* as we also make use of the flowers, fields, and greenhouse as the natural environment to teach horticultural and vocational skills to individuals with disabilities as they learn organic farming and greenhouse growing techniques!

THE DAFFODIL FESTIVAL

TALMAR Gardens, in collaboration with the Baltimore County Department of Recreation & Parks, will host its annual Daffodil Festival in Cromwell Valley Park. Join us on Saturday, April 2 from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM and enjoy live music, food, face painting, nature crafts, small petting zoo, chickens and more. During this festival, tour our gardens and pick your own daffodils or select a pre-made bunch of flowers grown on site. The donation for admission is \$5.00 per car. All proceeds will benefit TALMAR's programs and assist individuals with disabilities. Vendors welcome for fee. For more information, please call 410-825-2020.

CUT YOUR OWN FLOWERS ON SATURDAYS!

Starting June 4, our flower gardens are open to the community as a "cut your own" flowers day from 9 AM – 2 PM. We will furnish the pruners and the buckets. Bring the whole family! See butterflies and hummingbirds up close!

WORKSHOPS

For the beginner to the advanced gardener will begin early this spring and will be taught by local master gardeners and experts in the field of both floriculture & horticulture. Go on line or request a brochure for additional info and to register for classes ranging from *The Language of Flowers: A Hands-On Workshop*, *Getting Started with Annuals*, *Gorgeous Container Gardens*, *Houseplant How-To's*, *Keeping Your Garden Healthy - the Holistic Approach*, *Gardening with Arthritis*, *Starting from Seed* and many more.

CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
CVP is now accepting applications for the following positions.



Part Time Naturalist - Experienced Naturalist needed to conduct nature, environmental, and farming programs for children, adults, and families. Programs are scheduled mainly on week-ends as needed. Salary range is \$10.19 to \$11.48 per hour.

Seasonal Naturalist/Historian - Plans and implements varied nature, environmental and agricultural programs throughout the Northeast region of Baltimore County. Includes 7 days of paid training in June. Salary range is \$9.21 to \$10.77 per hour.

Summer Nature & Farming Camp Leader - Helps implement 7 one week day camp sessions for children. Activities include hiking, stream walks, Indian lore, crafts & gardening. Salary range is \$8.70 to \$11.64 per hour.

Interested individuals should call 410.887.2503 between 9 AM and 2 PM for an application.

**PARK GATES CLOSED
SUNSET TO SUNRISE**



Cromwell Valley Park is open for public visitation 365 days a year from **SUNRISE to SUNSET**. The only after-hours use of the Park is during staff led programming.

In order to enhance Park security, **the gates at Willow Grove Farm and Sherwood Farm will now be closed each evening at sunset and re-opened at sunrise.**

All CVP visitors should make sure that they leave the Park before the gates are closed. **Vehicles in the Park after sunset may be locked in overnight. Any persons in the Park after sunset may also be charged with trespassing.**

Everyone's co-operation with this procedure will insure that CVP remains a safe and secure place for everyone in Baltimore County to enjoy.



Cromwell Valley Park Summer Day Camp 2011



One Week Sessions

Ages 5 – 7
6/27 – 7/1
7/18 – 7/22
8/1 – 8/5

Ages 8 – 10
7/11 – 7/15
7/25 – 7/29
8/8 – 8/12

Ages 11 – 13
7/5,6,7,8

Lottery Drawing for Camp Registration Will be Held on March 21st at 9 AM.

Any registrations received after March 21, will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. This program includes take home crafts, hiking, nature studies, stream walks and lots of fun! Children will meet and learn about animals, wild and domesticated, enjoy children's garden activities and receive an abundance of outdoor knowledge.

Activities are geared to each age group.

Program will run 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM Monday – Friday *(except July 5,6,7,8 will run 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM)*

To register: complete the pre-registration form below and return this page and your check to:

Cromwell Valley Park, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, MD 21234.

You will only be registered for one session.

Cost: \$100.00 for CVPC members, \$120.00 for non-members, payable to CVPC.

To receive refund of camper's registration monies, Park office must be notified at least 2 weeks before assigned camp session begins.

Phone reservations **CAN NOT** be accepted. We welcome your phone inquiries for open spots, since openings fill up quickly. Upon receipt of payment, if your chosen week of camp is full, your payment will be returned.

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Phone(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Child's T-Shirt Size (Please circle): YouthS YouthM YouthL YouthXL AdultS AdultM AdultL AdultXL

Which week would your child like to attend?

List in order of preference (you will only be scheduled for one week)

A confirmation of week assigned will be mailed to you in.

First Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____ Third Choice: _____

Cromwell Valley Park Council Member: YES _____ NO _____ (Please check one.)



WILLOW GROVE NATURE EDUCATION CENTER NOW OPEN ON SATURDAYS!



The Willow Grove Nature Education Center, located at Willow Grove Farm, is now open for public visitation every Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM except on April 23, when it will not be open until 1 PM, while the Park hosts its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Sherwood Farm from 10 AM to 12 PM. The public is invited to visit the Nature Education Center & view the native reptiles & amphibians housed there, visit the Discovery Room, and enjoy the other exhibits at the Center. Visitors can observe & learn about some of the native turtles, frogs & snakes that call Cromwell Valley home. The Discovery Room has games, puzzles, field guides and hands-on natural objects for both kids and adults to enjoy while learning about the natural history of the Park. Park staff and volunteers have been busy planning, developing, and constructing the displays at the Center, so we encourage our County neighbors to stop by and see how we are working to develop the Center into a facility that highlights the Natural & Cultural History of the Park.

PARK BOUNDARIES

All park visitors are requested to be aware of the areas of Cromwell Valley Park that border on private property. Recently we have received reports of park users trespassing onto private property and using parts of Minebank Run that are privately owned. In particular, the stretch of Minebank Run near the lime kilns and the "log cabin," and the property on the east side of this stretch of stream are being used by the public. This area is privately owned and posted with "No Trespassing" and "Park Boundary" signs. Please be good neighbors to nearby landowners and keep out of Minebank Run and off adjacent property which is posted as private property.

Everyone's cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Cromwell Valley Park

Exit 29A off 695
Sherwood Farm is located at
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road
Willow Grove Farm is located at
2175 Cromwell Bridge Road

Cromwell Valley Park
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road
Baltimore, MD 21234



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Baltimore, MD
Permit #7639

